

a farm in Berkeley county, where he resided until the beginning of the Revolution, when he entered the American army and made a world-wide reputation by his capture of Burgoyne at Saratoga, in 1777. After the war, he returned to his home in Berkeley, where he resided until 1790, when he removed to New York, where he died April 10th, 1806.



GENERAL HORATIO GATES.

**26. The Early Days of Martinsburg.**—Martinsburg is situated upon the site of what was once the chief town of the Tuscarora Indians, the little stream on which it is situated still bearing the name of Tuscarora creek. The town was created by legislative enactment in October, 1778, on lands of Adam Stephen, and named from Colonel T. B. Martin, one of the heirs of Lord Fairfax. November 30th, 1793, the Assembly directed the trustees to establish a market house, and February 9th, 1813, it was enacted that "all free white male persons, being citizens of Virginia, and free-holders of the said town" should meet in the ensuing April and elect a board of trustees therefor. The Martinsburg academy was established January 8th, 1822, with David Hunter, Elisha Boyd, Philip C. Pendleton, John S. Harrison, and John R. Cook, trustees.

## CHAPTER X.

### WEST VIRGINIA AFTER THE REVOLUTION.

From 1785 to 1795.

**1. Mason and Dixon's Line.**—So long as the country remained a wilderness the question of boundaries was of little consequence, but when settlements began to be made, disputes arose between Virginia and Pennsylvania. The southern boundary of Pennsylvania as defined in the grant to William Penn, was a line extending from the Delaware river five degrees west. With this Virginia had nothing to do until the western boundary of Maryland was passed, but beyond that both Virginia and Pennsylvania claimed jurisdiction and so bitter was the dispute that it almost ended in civil war.

**2. The Surveyors at Work.**—In November, 1763, Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon, two eminent surveyors of London, came to America to fix the boundary and on Cedar (now South) street, Philadelphia, they erected an observatory to enable them to ascertain the latitude of that city. Having done this, they fixed a stone from which to begin the celebrated "Mason and Dixon's Line." Slowly the surveyors proceeded westward and on October 27th, 1765, they were on the summit of North mountain, ninety-five miles west of the Susquehanna river. Here the work was stopped until the next year when it was

completed to the summit of the Alleghanies, where the Six Nations forbade further prosecution of the work. But their consent was secured and the work went on in 1767, until the Catawba war-path near Mount Morris, now in Green county, Pennsylvania, was reached, where it was again stopped by the Indians and here for fifteen years the Line terminated.

**3. The Line Completed.**—When the Revolution closed, Virginia and Pennsylvania, raised to the dignity of independent States, agreed amicably to adjust all boundary disputes. To perform this work, Dr. James Madison and Robert Andrews were appointed on the part of the former and John Ewing, George Bryan and David Rittenhouse on the part of the latter. The commissioners met at Baltimore in 1780, and began the work of extending Mason and Dixon's Line five degrees west from the Delaware river. But the Indians again stopped them and nothing was done for four years. Then a part of the commissioners reared an observatory at Wilmington, Delaware, and the others journeyed west and on the loftiest peak of the Fish Creek Hills erected another. Supplied with astronomical instruments, both parties, from their respective stations, for six weeks observed such celestial phenomena as would enable them to determine their respective meridians. From the data thus obtained, they determined the location of the *fifth meridian* west from the Delaware river, and here they planted a post to mark the southwest corner of Pennsylvania as the terminus of Mason and Dixon's Line.



**4. Virginia's Cession of the Northwest Territory.**—All of the vast region extending from the Ohio to the Mississippi and bounded on the north by the Great Lakes was known as the Northwest Territory, and claimed by Virginia, New York, Massachusetts and Connecticut. Virginia based her claim upon charters from the English King, upon the conquest of the country by General George Rogers Clarke, and upon the fact that she had established civil government in it by the creation of Illinois county. The smaller States, prominently Maryland, insisted that this region should be the property of the Nation and not of individual States. Virginia joined the other claimants in surrendering the territory, and in 1784, Thomas Jefferson, Samuel Hardy, Arthur Lee and James Monroe, for Virginia, executed a Deed of Cession to Congress, by which the State forever relinquished jurisdiction in the territory beyond the Ohio. This session and the running of the western boundary of Pennsylvania north from the western terminus of Mason and Dixon's Line, left a narrow strip between the said western line and the Ohio, which has ever since been known as the "Pan-Handle."

**1. Ferries Established.**—The first ferry on the South Branch of the Potomac was established in 1782, from the lands of Ralph Humphrey to lands opposite. In 1785 a ferry was established across the Monongahela at the mouth of Decker's creek. This year the first ferry on Tygart's Valley river was established from the lands of John Pettyjohns, to

lands opposite in Monongalia county. At the same time two ferries were established over Cheat river, one from the lands of Jacob Scott and the other from the lands of Thomas Butler, both in Monongalia county. The first ferry on New river was established in 1787, from lands of Charles Lynch in the county of Montgomery; and the same year the first ferry over the Ohio was established from lands of Robert Wood in Ohio county, to lands opposite in the Northwest Territory. The first ferry in Harrison county was established over Elk creek on lands of George Jackson in 1786. The same year a ferry was located by legislative enactment over the Greenbrier river where the town of Alderson now stands, and a year later Crow's ferry was established over the Potomac at the junction of the North and South Branches.

#### **6. Legal Establishment of West Virginia Towns.**

—In 1785, Clarksburg was established at the junction of Elk creek and the West Fork of the Monongahela on lands on which John Simpson had reared his cabin in 1764. Morgantown was established the same year. A year later Charlestown—then in Berkeley but now the seat of justice of Jefferson county—was made a town by legislative enactment, on lands the property of Charles Washington, from whom it derived its name. In October, 1787, the town of West Liberty, in Ohio county, was established on lands of Reuben Foreman and Providence Mounts. It was the seat of justice of Ohio county until 1797, when it was removed to Wheeling. The same year Middletown, in Ber-



keley, and Watson, in Hampshire, became towns by legislative enactment.

**7. Indian Hostilities Renewed.**—The year 1784 was one of comparative quiet. The treaty of peace between the United States and Great Britain had the effect to restrain the Indians for the time being, but they renewed hostilities in 1785, which they continued for ten years thereafter. A connected recital of the barbarities perpetrated in West Virginia alone, if written in detail, would fill volumes and would moreover present only a dreary uniformity of incident and a narration of individual efforts and sufferings, of less important triumphs and defeats, the whole being but a confused mass of re-encounters of the rifle and tomahawk, of murders, burnings, captivities and reprisals, which confound by their resemblance and weary by their number. It has been estimated that a thousand families in West Virginia alone, fell victims to savage barbarity.

**8. Famous Frontier Warriors.**—The long years of savage warfare developed many heroic men among the founders of West Virginia, and their names should not be forgotten, for they formed the strong arm of defense against the savage hordes that carried destruction along the frontier of civilization. Prominent among these men were Lewis Wetzel, Ebenezer Zane, Samuel McCulloch, Andrew Poe, William Crawford, John Stuart, Samuel Brady, and a host of others who were leaders in the struggle between civilization and barbarism, which was decided chiefly on the soil of West Virginia.

**9. Jefferson's Notes on the State of Virginia.—**

The first literary work that related in any manner to what is now West Virginia, was the "Notes on the State of Virginia," written by Thomas Jefferson, third president of the United States, and published in Paris, France, in 1784, because the work could be done more cheaply there than in America. The edition consisted of but two hundred copies, some of which were distributed in Europe, but the greater number in America. The work was reprinted in France and this country. The author described with great exactness the rivers and mountains of West Virginia, having had access doubtless to the journals of Gist and other early explorers within the present limits of the State.

**10. The First Steamboat in the World.—**

Shepherdstown is famous for having been the residence of James Rumsey, who was the first man in the world to propose steam as a substitute for wind in propelling vessels. He built a steamer on the Potomac in 1784, which was tested on the broad reach of that river at Shepherdstown, in the presence of General Washington and other distinguished men of the day. The material and workmanship, together with the tools used, were those of an ordinary blacksmith shop. After patenting his invention, Rumsey went to London where greater facilities were offered for perfecting it. There he built a steamer which was tested on the Thames. December 20th, 1792, while explaining his invention before the Society of Arts, of London, he placed his hand upon his head and complained of

pain. This was his last utterance. He died twenty-four hours later and was buried at St. Margaret's, in Westminster Abbey. He is the only West Virginian whose dust sleeps with that of the great men of England. Thus one of the world's greatest inventors



DWELLING OF JAMES RUMSEY AT SHEPHERDSTOWN.\*

was a West Virginian and he found a grave in a foreign land. The honor of the invention has been long claimed for others, and it is now time that the great wrong be corrected and credit given to him to whom it rightfully belongs, and whose claims are beyond successful contradiction.

II. **The Federal Constitution.**—Soon after the close of the Revolution it was seen that while the Articles of Confederation had bound the Colonies together in time of war they were not adapted to the new order of things. And for the purpose of forming

\*From a drawing made by Henry Howe, Esq., the distinguished historian and artist, in 1845.



"a more perfect union," the Federal Constitution was framed. It had to be ratified by three-fourths of the States before it could become operative. The Virginia Convention which met for this purpose was composed of some of the most eminent men in the State. Seven counties existed in what is now West Virginia. These, with their representatives were



ARCHIBALD WOODS.\*

as follows: Berkeley, William Darke and Adam Stephen; Greenbrier, George Clendenin and John Stuart; Hampshire, Andrew Woodrow and Ralph Humphreys; Harrison, George Jackson and John Prunty; Hardy, Isaac Van-Matre and Abel Seymour; Monongalia, John Evans and William McCleery; Ohio, Archibald Woods and Eben-

zer Zane. These representatives belonged to that class of men of whom it was said: "They are farmers to-day, statesmen to-morrow and soldiers always."

\*Archibald Woods, prominent in the early history of Wheeling, was born November 14th, 1764, near Charlottesville, Virginia. In 1781 he enlisted in the Revolutionary army, and served until the close of the war, soon after which he removed to Ohio county. Here he was appointed a justice of the Peace. With Ebenezer Zane he represented Ohio county in the Virginia Convention of 1788, which ratified the Federal Constitution and for which action both voted. He mustered troops for the War of 1812, and started on the march with them, but all were ordered to return before reaching the field of action. He was long connected with the business interests of Wheeling. He died October 26th, 1846.

**12. The Founding of Charleston.**—The land on which the city of Charleston now stands was granted in 1773 to Colonel Thomas Bullitt for services in the French and Indian War. He sold it to his brother Cathbert, of Maryland, who transferred it to his son Cathbert of Prince William county, Virginia. Charles



WILLIAM CLENDENIN.\*

Clendenin removed to the Greenbrier Valley as early as 1780. He had four sons—George, William, Robert and Alexander—all distinguished in border war. George rose to prominence and in 1787, when in Richmond, he purchased the land at the mouth of the Elk river, and a year later removed to it with his aged father, brothers and an only sister. Here these founders of the future capital of West Virginia, on May 1st, 1788, began the erection of a block-house, which later served the purpose of dwelling, fort, court-house and jail. It was afterwards known as Fort Lee, so-called in honor of Governor Henry Lee, of Virginia. Soon others came to dwell in and

\*Captain William Clendenin, one of the founders of Charleston, was a prominent frontiersman. He was wounded at the battle of Point Pleasant in 1774. He was one of the first justices of Kanawha county, which he represented in the Virginia Assembly in 1796, and 1801. He was high sheriff in 1802-3, and in the latter year carried the petition to Richmond asking for the formation of Mason county. It was granted in 1804, and Captain Clendenin, then residing on the Ohio, within the limits of the new county, became its first representative in the General Assembly.